

What is claimed is:

1. A controlled release formulation for oral administration of metformin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising metformin or a  
5 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient; a combination of a polyethylene oxide and a natural gum as a carrier for controlled release; and a pharmaceutically acceptable additive.

2. The controlled release formulation of claim 1, wherein the  
10 pharmaceutically acceptable salt of metformin is metformin hydrochloride, metformin succinate or metformin fumarate.

3. The controlled release formulation of claim 1, wherein the  
15 polyethylene oxide has an average molecular weight in the range of 100,000 to 7,000,000.

4. The controlled release formulation of claim 1, wherein the natural  
20 gum is selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum, locust bean gum, guar gum and a mixture thereof.

5. The controlled release formulation of claim 1, wherein the weight  
ratio of metformin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof : carrier ranges  
from 1 : 0.01 to 1 : 1.